MMR-0016 Willard A. (Bill) Gardner

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Willard A. (Bill) Gardner is the sixteenth NMRA member to become a Master Model Railroader. He has earned Achievement Certificates as a Master Builder, Motive Power; Master Builder, Cars; Master Builder, Scenery; Model Railroad Engineer, Civil; Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical; Association Official and Association Volunteer.

His 13' by 17' HO scale model railroad in the basement of his home, can best be described as following the "inflated" water-wings plan. Among its more unusual features are operating semaphore and colored position light signals; two double slip switches; a 25' trolley loop with a railroad interchange; eased and super-elevated mainline curves. The pike also features an extensive steam and diesel engine terminal with full service facilities. Electrically, the main line is divided into seven blocks, with automatic train control and panel block occupancy indicators; three trains plus yard and engine terminal movements can be controlled simultaneously.

Bill has also scratch-built steam, diesel, and electric motive power; he built a free-lance GP-30 before they became a common sight on North American railroads, not too surprising, since Bill works for EMD. His scratch-built motive power and rolling stock generally follows a PRR prototype including freight cars, passenger cars, and even MU cars.

Bill has served the Midwest Region as a member of its Board of Directors, and has recently completed a year as the MWR President. He has also served as Chairman of the NMRA HO Standards Committee. He is presently Vice-Chairman of the NMRA Engineering Committee.

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Bill Gardner, newly named HO Standards Committee Chairman, operating a Penny MU train on his basement layout at his home in LaGrange, Illinois. Bill, who will also serve as acting Traction Committee Chairman, has a trolley line under construction in the foreground.

Ken Mortimer, General Engineering Chairman, has appointed Willard A. (Bill) Gardner as his successor as HO Standards Committee Chairman, and also as acting Traction Committee Chairman. Bill brings an impressive background of engineering and model railroading experience to his new responsibility, and will be a strong addition to the administration of the Association.

Bill Gardner is a native of the Long Island area of New York, and graduated from Rutgers in 1937 with a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering. After his graduation, Bill spent six years with the Pennsylvania Railroad, and developed an affection for the Penny that is still evident in his modeling work today.

Bill started model railroading in 1939 in OO Scale, but changed to HO Scale about two years later because of the greater variety of materials then being marketed in the fast-growing HO size. Bill's major model railroading interests today are the Penny—and trolley models. Bill has built several scratch Penny steam locomotives, and has taken home prizes from Midwest Region Model Contests with his models. Bill has recently built a number of scratch interurbans including intricate homemade drives.

Today, Bill is Assistant General Service Manager for the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors, and is serving as President of the Electro-Motive Model Railroad Club. Bill lives with his wife in a pleasant rolling countryside at 11371 Plainfield Road, LaGrange, Illinois.

MEMBERSHIP THERMOMETER
February 1, 1963

13,610

A Year Ago 13,478

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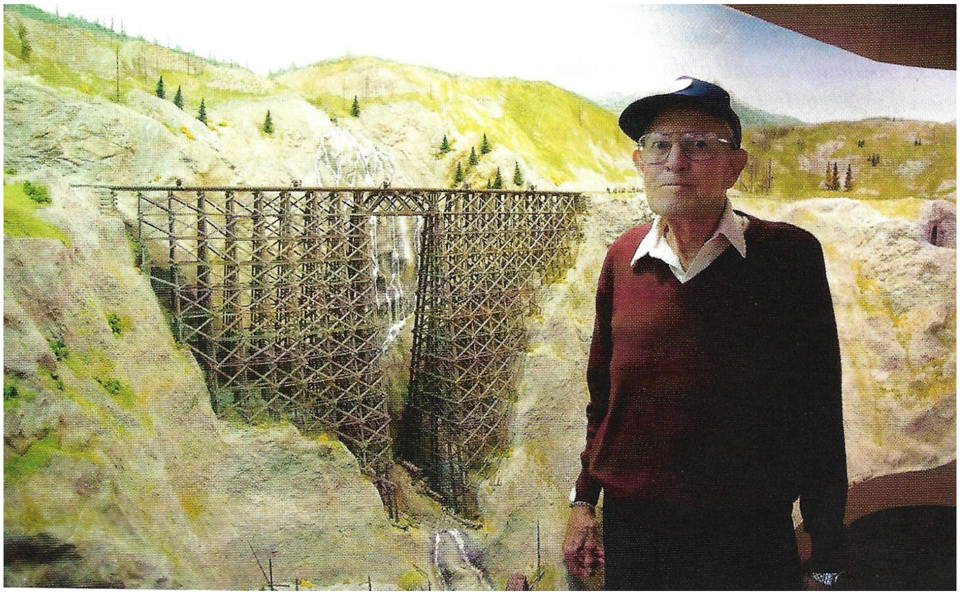
Bob Charles

Bob Gardner:
July 12, 1927 to January 12, 2018

On January 12, 2018, we lost Bob Gardner at 90½ years. Bob was a very kind man and enjoyed life to the fullest. He was also very gentle, always willing to help, very intelligent, had a great sense of humor and always participated in everything from camping to attending NMRA events and train meets.

After graduating from UBC, Bob started out in Winnipeg and was part of the Model Railway Club there. Then he spent many years in Lethbridge as Chief Engineer at Lethbridge Iron Works. His wife Von did all sorts of things with the Cubs and Scouts, including campouts.

After retirement and four children, Bob and Von retired to Salmon Arm where they built a beautiful log home, and he built an award-winning layout in the new basement. He joined SAMRA (Salmon Arm Model Railway Association) where he helped with many projects. He will be missed by many and particularly the SAMRA members and from our camping outings to Juniper Beach Provincial Park where late at night he would say, "Let's have another thimble-ful" (Scotch). We are much better off for having known him, and we will cherish his memories.

Gary Hazell